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Re: The LRH Biography
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June 16th, 80

Dear Omar,

I wrote to the Senior Personal PRO Office recently to take up the questions which you had posed in regards to the biography and the answers have now arrived back.

Before I give you these I want you to know that LRH had seen your workpoints for the book in 1977, which neither David nor I had any idea about until this recent reply. Apparently it was considered brilliant and to contain all that we wanted. LRH saw this in 1977 and commented that "the pattern of film techniques presentation is excellent". So I am really happy to give you this news, and hope even more we can make the work materialise.

Now, here are the other points.

1) Could you have a personal interview?

It was totally understood by the Senior Personal PRO Office that a personal interview would be optimum and would add value and credibility to the book in addition to giving you the valuable insight and experience such face to face contact brings. LRH has always been willing to talk to authors on the subject and everything in our power would be done to arrange this.

The limiting condition is simply the changing times; at times an interview would have been welcomed and easy to arrange, at times very difficult. At this point such an interview would be extremely difficult, but nevertheless we would definitely work to bring this about, if at all possible.

I do hope this answers your question with regard to the personal interview, and it really is agreed all round that it should occur if it is humanly possible.

2) How would you receive the research material?

There is a particular research terminal assigned to this biography in the Senior Personal PRO office and this person wants to work with you on this so that you are saved the "time, travel and intense effort" at least in the initial stages of your work. He would box up the materials we have and deliver them to your door. He would make himself available to you to do any research, fill in any gaps, do any leg-work, as you wanted.

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He tells me that he will get you whatever data is available on the Man - the child, the youth, the explosee, the writer, the family, the expert, the humanitarian etc etc. In the past few months he has assembled quite a bit of data, much of it new and we think of considerable value to a biographer. The documentation would be given to you in usable form, and as required by you, the researcher could relieve you of some research, travel requirements and general running around, and be available for whatever you needed in connection with this work.

3) Regarding any concern you may have about promised and undelivered cooperation.

This could be handled with clauses in the contract covering assistance to yourself. The keeping of such a clause would be considered very important by us too.

4) Regarding the puff profile, which you naturally did not want to write.

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The researcher says he can see where earlier biographical sketches of LRH could have led you to the conclusion that that was wanted. But those blurbs served a purpose different from that of a real biographical work of the quality this one must achieve.

The intention is that you will see all the materials, which really show the man, his errors, failures, anguish as well as his brilliance and success, so that you could work with this human side to create an understandable figure whose accomplishments thus become more real and more readily accepted.

5) The approval of the final product will lie with LRH himself.

6) Any fear you may have had of being relegated to literary serfdom can certainly be handled by a comprehensive contract, full briefings to all concerned, and common sense and decency on the parts of all involved. We do not foresee this as a problem at all. To my knowledge it has not arisen in the past and should certainly have no part in the production of this work.

So, dear Omar, as you know you are certainly our number one choice for this biography. If a personal meeting would help on this, then I could work to arrange a meeting between yourself, the Senior Personal PRO researcher and myself.

I know you are in the midst of an extremely busy time, with "Playing Dirty" about to come off the press and the personal tour which you will do in connection with this.

However perhaps before the rush of June 29th onwards starts, you will have the time to work out whether you have any further questions which need answering with regards to the biography, or whether we have reached the stage where we can state any agreements made in the form of a tentative contract, to include all points mentioned. I know that the fee for such has not yet been discussed and so would welcome a proposal from you on this.

I would like to emphasise that my understanding is that you would like to produce the definitive work on this subject, one which will be long remembered and also I know that you recognise its importance.

We would really like to give you any assistance, so that without your having to run around more than you wish to, you are able to produce that work in the most conducive atmosphere creatable for this.

Please give my love to Gina and I do hope that the tour you are about to embark on is a great success.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With love,

Sheila